S. Scituate
Mass Feb 18 Paid 5

Rev. Amos A. Phelps

New York
N. Y.

Hon. J. Quincy,
Feb. 18/46.

How are your labors blessed? Do you find more to encourage or is there still apathy? You still find time to do battle to the "Double D. Mechanics." One would think that their "underpinning" had been pretty effectually removed. What efforts men make to see how near they can come to the devil & not sin.

A few days since I receceived a letter from brother Green — all drenched in his heavenly spirit. "He is doing with his might what his hands find to do." He has received a a call as the custom is with his society to remain another year. When he wrote he had not accepted and was undecided what to do. He fears that the little Spartan band who have clung to him hitherto through evil and good report will not follow where he feels impelled to go. He intends if possible to remodel the creeds, so that sound Christian Character shall be the only test of admission into the Church.

I have heard but little this winter from East Boston. It seems that Mr. Cleaveland has accepted the call of the Maverick Church. Mr. Patton has left South Boston, and gone to Connecticut where Mr. Fairchild was formerly settled.

Do write to me as soon as you can that I may have the benefit of your advice before it is too late. Blessings on you and yours, every way and forever.

Yours affectionately
Wm. D. Briggs

Give a great deal of love to Mrs. Phelps, Mrs. Edwards. Would much like to see Dora all.

regard it as a foolish intrusion if I tell you my intentions and ask your advice. Before I left Whitesboro I rec'd from the Whitesboro association a license to preach. Privileges growing out of this I have sought to improve as opportunity offered. I do not yet feel willing to go into the field as a candidate, but rather spend six months or a year partially in the field, under the eye of some faithful and experienced teacher. Could I for instance make a better preparation, than by preaching weekly to a small society, and at the same time receive impulse and guidance from a true minister. You have had large experience in this matter, and have long been reckoned a sort of oracle in Ecclesiastical matters - can you suggest a wiser course, and if not point out a suitable field. It is the desire of my heart and God helping me it shall be done / to present to the world the character of an honest man. I know that this may and probably will require the sacrifice of father and mother and the taking up of a heavy cross. I find the Church has been trying to make tools of ministers, as the state has of politicians. The most supple minds and India Rubber conscience, other things equal will command the highest salary. Integrity must be sacrificed to a mole-eyed Expediency; and money must be laid out, not in supporting men but in procuring tools.

South Scituate Feby 16th/41

My dear Brother -

16 For three months past my time has been fully occupied. Domestic duties and a school of sixty urchins have made me seem to neglect one of my best friends. I have felt deeply anxious to hear from you and yours, and though I have not written for some time be assured that my spirit has been often with you. I want to know if your body has become a meet temple for your spirit; or whether it be still prest down with the burdens which a strong spirit has imposed. When I saw you last, you could not imitate Falstaff so easily as I had hoped. However I rejoice that a good God reigns and can thus feel assured that your health will be preserved and your labors yet bless the world abundantly.

I have not been at Boston this winter and of course have had no means of learning your whereabouts. Rumor has been rife here that you have visited Baltimore to liberate if possible poor Torrey. If true, God be praised that one soul has love and faith sufficient to try. It will be grateful to me and especially to some of Torrey's near friends in this place to hear upon this point all that you may may think prudent to impart.

In three weeks I expect to close school. I know you will not